

Knowledge Translation Platform Nigeria: *Success Story & Lessons Learned*

Jesse Uneke PhD

Director,

Directorate of Research, Innovation & Commercialization

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Ebonyi State University

PMB 053 Abakaliki Nigeria

&

Director,

WHO-EVIPNet Nigeria

(Knowledge Translation Platform)

Ebonyi State University Abakaliki Nigeria

+234 8038928597; E-mail: unekecj@yahoo.com

Team Profile

► Established in 2008 as multidisciplinary Knowledge Translation Platform in Ebonyi State University Abakaliki Nigeria.

► **key objectives of the Team**

1. To initiate and engage in innovative scientific research geared towards the provision of evidence leading to improvement of public health and disseminating policy relevant research findings.
2. To translate scientific research findings and evidence into policy by collaborating with relevant policy makers and stake holders in the health sector.
3. Provision of training/mentoring to enhance the capacity to use evidence, of individuals and organizations involved in policy making.
4. To produce training materials such as manuals which can be used for the training of individuals and organizations involved in health policy making.
5. To undertake initiatives that will bridge the gap between health researchers and policy makers.

Core Team members

1. Dr. C.J. Uneke: Infectious Diseases; Health Policy & Health Systems; Knowledge Translation
2. Dr. A. E. Ezeoha: Financial policy; social research, Knowledge Translation/Management
3. Dr. F. Onwe: Anthropology; Gender studies
4. Dr. C.T. Ezeonu: Population/Child Health
5. Prof. O. Ogbu: Microbiology/Epidemiology
6. Dr. H.C. Uro-Chukwu: Policymaking/Disease Control/Social mobilization

Teams scholarly materials

Number of Health Policy Scientific Publications: 21

Evidence to Policy Manual: 1

Policy briefs: 8



Our KTP's passion

To enhance the evidence-to-policy-to-practice process by bridging the huge gap between researchers and policymakers.

Evidence –to –policy process: the challenge



Bridging the gap between researchers and policymakers and uptake of research evidence into policymaking process constitute enormous challenges.

- ▶ This is why a Knowledge Translation Platform is very imperative!
- ▶ A Knowledge Translation Platform has the potential of driving this process.

So WHAT DID WE DO???

Strategy 1.

We engaged high level advocacy, consultation and courtesy visits to leaders of the government and Ministry of Health and other agencies to introduce our research team and solicit for their cooperation, support, and built cordial relationships.



Strategy 2.

We identified government (ministry of health) health priorities and tailored our research in the University towards it. And initiated partnership with policymakers in those programmes.



Strategy 3.

We sought and involved some key government officials and built informal relationships with them and through their help we gained access into the government circle.



Strategy 4.

We identified government health programmes, workshops and health activities and got involved, either as participants, facilitators or observers.



Strategy 5.

We involved policymakers and other government agencies in grant proposal application process and when successful, in the planning and implementation of the project.



Strategy 6.

We involved government/health ministry in interventional research programmes our KTP executed in the various parts of the State.



Strategy 7.

We Provided (produced) policy supporting information/materials/documents (eg., policy brief) for the government on high priority issues and submitted to the government even when there was no express request for them.



Strategy 8.

We initiated the establishment of A Health Policy Advisory Committee made up of Policymakers, researchers and other key stakeholders in the health sector.



Strategy 9.

We developed a short term training programme (3-month certificate course) in the University on health policy/ systems for policymakers. It was designed to enhance policymakers' capacity for evidence informed policymaking.



**2012 set: 18 Participants
Trained**

**2013 set: 14 Participants
Trained**

**2014 set: 9 Participants
Trained**

**2015 set: 30 Participants
Undergoing
Training**

Strategy 10.

Because of unavailability of local funding for health systems research, we keep seeking funding from outside Nigeria for health policy & health systems research by developing grantsmanship skills.

And we don't give up!

From 2008 till date we have obtained six international research grants mainly from WHO for Health Systems, Health Policy & Knowledge Translation Research.

Major Research Funding Received by Team & evidence produced

1. Supporting National Processes for Evidence-informed Policy in the Health Sector of Developing Countries. 2008. Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research/WHO

1. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha A, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F (2010). Development of Health Policy and Systems Research in Nigeria: Lessons for Developing Countries' Evidence-Based Health Policy Making Process and Practice. *Healthcare Policy* 6(1):48-65.
2. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha A, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F, Igbiniedion EB, Chukwu PN. (2011) Individual and organizational capacity for evidence use in policy making in Nigeria: an exploratory study of the perceptions of Nigeria health policy makers. *Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research, Debate and Practice* 7(3): 251-276(26)
3. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F. (2011) Enhancing health policymakers' capacity to use information and communication technology in Nigeria. *Journal of Health Informatics in Developing Countries* 5(2): 228-246
4. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F. (2012) Enhancing Leadership and Governance Competencies to Strengthen Health Systems in Nigeria: Assessment of Organizational Human Resources Development. *Healthcare Policy*, 7(3):76-87
5. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F. (2012) Promotion of evidence-informed health policymaking in Nigeria: bridging the gap between researchers and policymakers. *Global Public Health* 7(7):750-65
6. Uneke CJ, Aulakh BK, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F (2012) Bridging the divide between research and policy in Nigeria: The role of health policy advisory committee. *Journal of Public Health Policy* 33(4):423-429.
7. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F (2013). Promotion of health sector reforms for health systems strengthening in Nigeria: perceptions of policy makers versus the general public on the Nigeria health systems performance. *Social Work in Public Health*. 2013;28(6):541-53.
8. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F, Ogbonna A (2013). Assessment of organizational capacity for evidence-based health systems operations in Nigeria. *Social Work in Public Health*. 2013;28(2):97-108.
9. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F, Aulakh BK (2013). Research priority setting for health policy and health systems strengthening in Nigeria: the policymakers' and stakeholders' perspective and involvement. *The Pan African Medical Journal*. 2013;16:10
10. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Onwe F, Aulakh BK (2014). Enhancing policy makers' capacity for evidence-informed policy making through mentorship: A reflection on the Nigeria experience. *Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research, Debate and Practice*, 10(1): 139-144.

2. Small Research Grants For Patient Safety. 2008.

World Alliance for Patient Safety/WHO

1. Uneke CJ, Ndukwe CD, Nwakpu KO, Nnabu RC, Ugwuoru CD, Prasopa-Plaizier N **(2014)**. Stethoscope disinfection campaign in a Nigerian teaching hospital: results of a before-and-after study. J Infect Dev Ctries. 2014 Jan 15;8(1):86-93.
2. Uneke CJ, Ndukwe CD, Oyibo PG, Nwakpu KO, Nnabu RC, Prasopa-Plaizier N **(2014)**. Promotion of hand hygiene strengthening initiative in a Nigerian teaching hospital: implication for improved patient safety in low-income health facilities. Braz J Infect Dis. 2014 Jan-Feb;18(1):21-7

3. Promoting Evidence-to-Policy Link. 2011. Evidence-to-policy Network-EVIPNet/WHO/IDRC**.**

1. Uneke CJ, Ndukwe CD, Ezeoha AA, Uro-Chukwu HC, Ezeonu CT. **(2015)**. Implementation of a health policy advisory committee as a knowledge translation platform: the Nigeria experience. *International Journal of Health Policy & Management* 4: 1-8.

4. Short-Term Grant For Research Capacity Strengthening And Knowledge Management To Help Improve Disease Control, 2013. TDR-WHO.

1. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Uro-Chukwu H, Ezeonu CT, Ogbu O, Onwe F, Edoga C **(2015)**. Promoting Evidence to Policy Link on the Control of Infectious Diseases of Poverty in Nigeria: Outcome of A Multi-Stakeholders Policy Dialogue. *Health Promotion Perspectives* 5(2): 104-115.
2. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Uro-Chukwu H, Ezeonu CT, Ogbu O, Onwe F, Edoga C **(2015)**. Enhancing health policymakers' information literacy knowledge and skill for policymaking on control of infectious diseases of poverty in Nigeria. *Online Journal of Public Health Informatics* ; 7(2):e221.
3. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Uro-Chukwu H, Ezeonu CT, Ogbu O, Onwe F, Edoga C. **(2015)**. Improving Nigerian health policymakers' capacity to access and utilize policy relevant evidence: outcome of information and communication technology training workshop. *The Pan African Medical Journal*. 21:212
4. Uneke CJ, Ezeoha AE, Uro-Chukwu H, Ezeonu CT, Ogbu O, Onwe F, Edoga C. **(2015)**. Enhancing the capacity of policy-makers to develop evidenceinformed policy brief on infectious diseases of poverty in Nigeria. *International Journal of Health Policy & Management* 4(9):599–610

Current/on-going Funding

5. Policy Information Platform : Fostering Access and Use of Relevant Knowledge in Decision Making. 2015. **Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research/WHO**


www.pipnigeria.org

6. Short-term training grants for research capacity strengthening and knowledge management (2015). **TDR-WHO.**

Title: *Improving Researchers' and Policymakers' Capacity for Implementation Research for the control of Infectious Diseases of Poverty in Nigeria using a Two-Way Secondment Model between the University and Health Ministry*

Health Policy Information x Health Policy Information x localhost:localhost/ x Email Training - chabrous x 1913 unroad() - j2bata x Mercedes-Benz United Team x

localhost/health_policy/index.php#



Policy Information Platform (PIP), Nigeria

A Repository for Strengthening the Access to and Utilization of Research Evidence in Health Policy-Making Process

WHO
Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

Search by Title, Year, Author, ... Search

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The Policy Information Platform aims at alleviating access barriers to existing policy relevant knowledge, covering both peer-reviewed publications and grey literature, as well as to ensure that relevant and reliable information is available in a user-friendly format for policy- and management decision-making.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES KNOWLEDGE BRIEFS PRESENTATIONS EVALUATION REPORTS GREY LITERATURE HEALTH POLICY DOCUMENTS

HPD Categories

- ✓ Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Policy Document
- ✓ Malaria Policy Documents Nigeria
- ✓ HIV/AIDS Policy Documents Nigeria
- ✓ Others





RESOURCES FOR EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY

- Support Tool
- SURE Guide

EVIDENCE FOR INFORMED POLICIES

- Evidence brief for policy
- Systematic Reviews
- Rapid Responses
- Policy Dialogue

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KTP

1. Produced six policy briefs on health systems strengthening, one on Free maternal Health care and one on control of infectious diseases of poverty in Ebonyi State
2. Undertook three multi-stakeholder policy dialogues
3. Development of “Operational Manual for Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Employ Evidence in Health Policymaking for Developing Countries: *The Nigeria Experience*”
4. Establishment of Health Policy Advisory Committee in Ebonyi State (consisting of policymakers and researchers as members)
5. Commencement of an Executive Certificate Training Programme on health policy and health systems in Ebonyi State University for policymakers and health sector key stakeholders
6. Establishment of African Institute for Health Policy and Health Systems Studies in Ebonyi State University to award PGD, MSc and PhD in Health Policy & Health Systems. (First in Africa)
7. Establishment of the Policy Information Platform Nigeria (First in Africa)
8. Initiation of a Secondment Programme (Staff exchange between ministry of Health and University). (Probably the First in Africa)

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strength

1. Experienced multidisciplinary team with high level of expertise in knowledge translation & stakeholder engagement
2. The Government respects the Team and believes in the research outcomes produced by the team for policymaking
3. Cordial relationship between team and policymakers

Opportunity

1. Conducive environment for evidence to policy programmes/ initiatives
2. Increasing interest of researchers and policy makers on evidence to policy process
3. Establishment of African Institute for Health Policy & Health Systems Studies
4. Establishment of Policy Information Platform

Threats

1. Instability of government structure due to frequent leadership changes, incompleteness of programmes and lack of effective monitoring & evaluation
2. Effect of politics on health policies & lack of sufficient commitment by political office holders

Weakness

1. Lack of funding to scale up to national level
2. Knowledge of evidence to policy is still at infancy stage in the country, and so many existing policies are not thoroughly evidence informed

RECOMENDATION

1. Research Teams represented here can start initiating the process that will transform them into Knowledge Translation Platforms.
2. The Research Units of the Ministry of Health where they exist can start positioning themselves to start engaging in Knowledge Translation activities.

The evidence to policy process requires a driver and no other can do it better than a Knowledge Translation Platform!

NEW COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH!



NEW PARTNERSHIP!!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION